

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method of automated diagnosis or management of a medical condition, the method comprising:

providing a plurality of disease objects, each disease object associated with a plurality of symptom objects; and

assigning a weight for each symptom, wherein a particular disease object may include a preferred weight for one or more preferred symptoms and an alternative weight for one or more alternative symptoms, wherein the alternative symptoms are selected from a set of archived symptom objects that are available for reuse.

2. The method defined in Claim 1, additionally comprising assigning a new name for a symptom object that is reused.

3. The method defined in Claim 1, wherein the set of archived symptom objects is stored in a database.

4. The method defined in Claim 3, additionally comprising accessing the set of archived symptom objects stored in the database via a global computer network.

5. The method defined in Claim 1, wherein each symptom object has underlying objects used to establish the symptom.

6. An automated diagnostic system comprising a plurality of objects which interact to determine the diagnosis of a patient, wherein the objects include at least one of: a disease object, a symptom object, a valuator object, a question object, a node object and a candidates object.

7. The system of Claim 6, wherein the objects include a plurality of disease objects and a plurality of symptom objects.

8. The system of Claim 6, additionally comprising an engine object to coordinate the other objects.

9. An automated diagnostic system comprising a plurality of objects, wherein the objects include at least a plurality of disease objects and a plurality of symptom objects, and wherein at least some of the objects perform their own tasks and call upon other objects to perform their tasks at the appropriate time.